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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/641,715	08/21/2000	Laszlo Hullam	Ideal 425	7913

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EXAMINER

DEXTER, CLARK F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3724

DATE MAILED: 12/18/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/641,715	Applicant(s) Hullam
	Examiner Clark F. Dexter	Art Unit 3724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claims 1-7 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 20) Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-3 and 6, drawn to a hand-held cutting tool with a specific blade configuration, classified in class 30, subclass 230.
 - II. Claims 1, 4 and 6, drawn to a hand-held cutting tool with a specific blade finish, classified in class 30, subclass 254.
 - III. Claims 1, 5 and 6, drawn to a hand-held cutting tool with a spring, classified in class 30, subclass 234.
 - IV. Claim 7, drawn to a method of cutting a fiber optical cable, classified in class 83, subclass 13.
2. Claims 1-6 have been restricted such that the patentability of the invention is presumed to lie in the details of the particular group (e.g. the blade configuration of Group I). It is noted that if claim 1 as originally filed is part of an elected group and determined to be patentable, rejoinder of claims 1-6 will be considered. It is further noted that claim 1 is listed as part of groups I-III but is not considered to be part any of these groups. Rather, claim 1 recites subject matter that is common to all of the groups and has been shown as part of each group for clarity (i.e., so that it is clear which claims are part of which group). Further, because claim 1 includes subject matter that

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is common to all of the groups, it is not considered to be independent or distinct from any of the groups. Therefore, claim 1 will be examined upon election of one of groups I-III.

3. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Apparatus Groups I-III

4. Inventions of groups I and II are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group I does not require the specific details of the blade finish of group II for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group I, and the invention of group II does not require the specific details of the blade configuration of group I for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group II.

5. Inventions of groups I and III are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group I does not require the spring of group III for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group I, and the invention of group III does not require the specific details of the blade configuration of group I for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group III.

6. Inventions of groups II and III are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group II does not require the spring of group III for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group II, and the invention of group III does not require the specific details of the blade finish of group II for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group III.

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Apparatus Groups (I-III) vs Method Group (IV)

7. Inventions II and I are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process. (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case, the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process; for example, the apparatus can be used to cut a different material such as paper.

8. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

9. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Clark Dexter whose telephone number is (703) 308-1404. The examiner's typical work schedule is Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and he can be reached during normal business hours on these days.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Allan Shoap, can be reached at (703)308-1082.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-1148. The fax numbers for this group are: formal papers - (703)305-3579; informal/draft papers - (703)305-9835.



**Clark F. Dexter
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3724**

cfd
December 14, 2001